

REMARKS

The following remarks are provided in response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 4, 2006. The original Office Action restricted the claims into groups I (consisting of claims 1-15) and group II (consisting of claim 15-31). In a telephone interview between applicant's undersigned representative and the Examiner on May 4, 2006, the Restriction was amended as follows. The Examiner reasoned that:

- I. Claims 1-18 are drawn to a process, classified in class 438, subclass 706.
- II. Claims 19-31 are drawn to product, classified in class 257, subclass 77.

The applicants herein elect Group I (claims 1-18) without traverse and respectfully request a timely examination of the elected claims. Further, the applicants preserve the right to pursue withdrawn claims 19-31 in a divisional application.

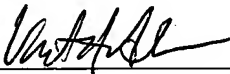
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims **1-18** are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Vincent H. Anderson
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 54,962

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(503) 439-8778